

invention. These and other obvious modifications are intended to be within the scope of the invention.

Preferred embodiments of the invention may be implemented as a computer program product for use with a computer system. Such implementation may include a series of computer instructions fixed either on a tangible medium, such as a computer readable media (*e.g.*, a diskette, CD-ROM, ROM, or fixed disk) or transmittable to a computer system, via a modem or other interface device, such as a communications adapter connected to a network over a medium.

Medium may be either a tangible medium (*e.g.*, optical or analog communications lines) or a medium implemented with wireless techniques (*e.g.*, microwave, infrared or other transmission techniques). The series of computer instructions embodies all or part of the functionality previously described herein with respect to the system.

Those skilled in the art should appreciate that such computer instructions can be written in a number of programming languages for use with many computer architectures or operating systems. Furthermore, such instructions may be stored in any memory device, such as semiconductor, magnetic, optical or other memory devices, and may be transmitted using any communications technology, such as optical, infrared, microwave, or other transmission technologies. It is expected that such a computer program product may be distributed as a removable media with accompanying printed or electronic documentation (*e.g.*, shrink wrapped software), preloaded with a computer system (*e.g.*, on system ROM or fixed disk), or distributed from a server or electronic bulletin board over the network (*e.g.*, the Internet or World Wide Web)

What is claimed is:

1. A method performed on a data processing system for processing business information generated by multiple organizations, the method comprising:
  - a. providing a database for holding business information;
  - b. receiving business information from a plurality of organizations;
  - c. populating the database with business information from the

plurality of organizations, the business information being identified with an organizational identifier identifying the organization associated with the information;

- d. authenticating a user for access to the database based on a user identifier, a password and the organizational identifier; and
- e. providing the user access to the database only for business information identified with the user's organizational identifier.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing the user access to the database is provided by a single instance of a database server program for all users.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing the user access to the database is provided by a single instance of an application server program for all users.